

13th District one of the most vulnerable in the nation

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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires voted today to secure funding for key areas in the 13th Congressional District of New Jersey that are vulnerable to acts of terrorism. H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act is sweeping legislation that allots more money for urban areas, port security, and explosive detection, as well as grants that will ensure vital programs that increase communications among first responders during a crisis.

"This bill not only continues to fund necessary ongoing operations already in place, it enhances vital areas of homeland security so that we come closer to streamlined and efficient security measures," said Congressman Sires. "H.R. 2638 makes great strides towards the peace of mind Americans families long for."

The 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations bill:

- Invests in port security by significantly increasing funding to protect critical port facilities and infrastructure.
- Improves aviation security by providing funding for new explosive detection systems at airports and funding to double the amount of cargo screened on passenger aircraft.
- Expands support for local law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders by rejecting the President's proposed \$1 billion cut for training and equipment for first responders.

"I am pleased that this bill allows state and local governments to set chemical security rules that are stronger than the federal government's. This will allow New Jersey to keep its strong chemical security laws in place. The recent threat to fuel storage tanks close to Kennedy Airport and its pipeline originating in Linden, New Jersey illustrate the potential danger our district's residents face and the need for these stringent standards," said Congressman Sires.

The Homeland Security Appropriations Act also eliminates no-bid contracts except in emergencies and includes accountability provisions that will protect valuable tax dollars.

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